From: Michel G. Rainville
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 12/2/01 8:59pm
Subject: Microsoft Antitrust Solution - Slit So That Application Programming Interfaces MUST Be Published

Dear sir,

    I am a Canadian, but the unavoidable presence of Microsoft
has affected me as well. I do database development for a major
Canadian university.

    When Windows 95 came out, it broke dBase, Lotus, and WordPerfect
and it was six months at least before they could even be run on Windows.
On the other hand, Word, Excel, and Microsoft Visual C++ was already
aware
of the impending changes and were not affected.

    Today, Oracle installations MUST replace several Windows programs
as a
routine part of the installation process and downloads of Internet
Explorer
have broken Oracle installations, by changing the dynamic runtime
library for
Visual C++, I suppose.

    When I purchased my computer for home, I had no choice but to buy
Windows, even though I run OS/2 on it. I tried to obtain a Linux system
from
Dell, but they would sell nothing but Windows, even if it meant losing a
5,000.00+
sale.

    In my opinion, the computer industry will be seriously hurt by the
continued
unfair practices of Microsoft. The protection of software vendors, in
particular,
requires that Microsoft be split into no less than FOUR parts:

Development Tools (C,C++, Visual Studio, any tools used to build Windows
)
Operating Systems (Windows 95,98, NT, 2000, XP, etc., strictly mapping
the harware to an API with Development Tools)
Applications Software (Office, Word, Excel, Access, Visual Basic etc.)
Web Services (Internet Explorer, MSN, C#)

In this way, other vendors, even if they use MS tools or systems, will
have the

same public access to APIs at the same time as those parts of the former Microsoft
that used to obtain early and secret access, months and years in advance
of competitors.

You might also consider requiring hardware vendors to OFFER at least ONE non-Microsoft
operating systems on their computers as a general rule to foster competition. Linux
and many others are free, after all.

Good luck with your decision,
Sincerely,
Michel G. Rainville

77-5225 Sherbrooke St. West
Montreal, QC
Canada H4A 1T7